

SELL TP: Rs 534 | **∀** 27%

THE RAMCO CEMENTS

Cement

08 February 2023

Performance driven by new capacity addition

- Q3 revenue rose 29% YoY as utilisation improved to 69%; realisation gain of 9% came as a positive surprise
- Cost inflation continues to impact performance; fuel burden unlike to moderate and logistics cost an added worry
- Valuations stretched given that we expect ROCE/ROE of sub-10% through to FY25; maintain SELL, TP Rs 534

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Topline growth drives performance: TRCL's Q3FY23 revenue rose 29% YoY to Rs 20bn aided by 19% volume growth which was contributed by capacity addition and a push in the eastern region that contributes ~25% of the company's volumes. Capacity utilisation improved to 69%, and management expects +80% levels in Q4. In a positive surprise, realisations grew 9% YoY, helping TRCL partially offset cost inflation. Management has guided for volume growth of 30% in FY23, followed by a healthy double-digit uptick in FY24 as new capacity ramps up.

Cost inflation continues: Blended fuel cost inched up to Rs 2.43/kcal. The usage of pet coke in Q3 was at ~59% of the fuel mix, with procurement cost at US\$ 191/t. The railways' 15% busy season surcharge also impacted logistics cost (negative impact of Rs 50/t on EBITDA). Promotional expenses led to a 14% YoY rise in other expenditure to Rs 2.4bn. However, with strong realisation gains, EBITDA increased 23% YoY to Rs 2.8bn.

Capacity expansion underway: TRCL's Kurnool integrated unit began commercial production in Q2FY23 (with a 5MW WHRS) and achieved clinker capacity utilisation of 54% in Q3. Land acquisition for the Karnataka greenfield plant has not yet started as government approval is awaited. TRCL is also awaiting notification from the government for the Tamil Nadu limestone auctions.

Balance sheet remains stressed: Net debt in Q3 was at Rs 45.6bn as compared to Rs 47.4bn in Q2FY23, which includes an interest-free loan of Rs 1.9bn. The average cost of borrowing rose to 7.1% from 5.4% in YoY due to repo rates hikes.

Maintain SELL: Given the positive surprise in Q3, we raise our FY23 EPS by 38% but leave FY24/FY25 forecasts largely unchanged. At current valuations of 12x FY25E EV/EBITDA, TRCL looks expensive given its high gearing, weak margin profile due to a presence in oversupplied regions, and single-digit return ratios. We maintain SELL and continue to value the stock at 10x FY25E EV/EBITDA for an unchanged TP of Rs 534. Our target implies a replacement cost of Rs 7.7bn/mt (~US\$ 100/t), a 10% premium to the industry average (for details, see our initiation report).

Key changes

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Ticker/Price	TRCL IN/Rs 730
Market cap	US\$ 2.1bn
Free float	58%
3M ADV	US\$ 4.5mn
52wk high/low	Rs 898/Rs 576
Promoter/FPI/DII	42%/7%/32%

Source: NSE | Price as of 8 Feb 2023

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	59,567	74,694	86,276
EBITDA (Rs mn)	12,606	10,399	12,711
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	8,928	2,907	4,102
Adj. EPS (Rs)	37.8	12.3	17.4
Consensus EPS (Rs)	37.8	14.1	28.3
Adj. ROAE (%)	14.7	4.4	6.0
Adj. P/E (x)	19.3	59.4	42.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.6	20.6	16.9
Adj. EPS growth (%)	17.1	(67.5)	41.1

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Earnings call highlights

Volumes and Realisations

- Management has guided for volume growth of 30% in FY23, followed by a healthy double-digit uptick in FY24 as new capacity ramps up.
- Capacity utilisation was at 69% in Q3FY23, and management expects +80% levels in Q4.

Margins

- TRCL expects average coal and fuel prices in Q4FY23 to be at par with those in Q3.
- Revenue share of premium cement stood at 26% for the quarter against 23% in Q3FY22. Trade share was at 63%.
- Higher other expenditure was attributed to a rise in advertisement expenses.
 Finance cost and depreciation also increased due to the commissioning of units in JPM Line III (state Tamilnadu) and Kolimigundla (Andhra Pradesh).
- TRCL supplies energy generated via windmills and an application to convert the same into captive consumption is pending with Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB). On approval, the company expects power cost to reduce by Rs 50-80/tn.

Capex and Capacity

- In Q3FY23, TRCL incurred capex of Rs 3.9bn. Guidance stands at Rs 7.3bn for H2FY23 and Rs 8.9bn for FY24.
- The Kurnool integrated unit commenced commercial production in Q2FY23 and achieved clinker capacity utilisation of 54% in Q3FY23. Further, 5MW of waste heat recovery system (WHRS) capacity was commissioned in Kurnool in Q3FY23, another 3MW is expected to come online in Feb'23, and the balance 4MW in May'23 (leading to an estimated Rs 80-100/tn reduction in power cost). The 18MW thermal power plant and railway siding are due to be commissioned in FY24.
- In terms of the dry mortar plant expansion in Tamil Nadu, one unit was commissioned in Dec'22 and another will follow in Feb'23. The remaining two units in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are scheduled for commissioning in FY24. RR Nagar Line III (Tamilnadu) with clinker capacity of 1.44mtpa is due to come online before end-FY23.
- Land acquisition has not yet taken place for the Karnataka greenfield plant as government approval is awaited.
- TRCL is awaiting notification from the government for the Tamil Nadu limestone auctions.
- The company is currently transferring clinker from Ariyalur (Tamil Nadu) to RR Nagar (Tamilnadu) end-March, commissioning of the third line will lead to transport cost benefits which will accrue in FY24.



Other key points

- Net debt in Q3 was down from Rs 47.4bn in Q2FY23 to Rs 45.6bn, which includes a short-term loan of Rs 564mn and an interest-free loan of Rs 1.9bn.
- The average cost of borrowing rose to 7.1% from 5.4% YoY due to the reportate hikes totalling 250bps in FY23 YTD.
- No non-core assets were sold in Q3; management expects to sell land worth
 Rs 3bn-4bn in Q4FY24 which will aid working capital requirements.

Fig 1 - Key metrics

(Rs)	Q3FY23	Q3FY22	YoY (%)	Q2FY23	QoQ (%)
Volumes (mt)	3.57	3.01	18.7	3.31	7.8
Cement realisations (Rs/tn)	5,576	5,113	9.1	5,296	5.3
Operating costs (Rs/tn)	4,829	4,384	10.2	4,834	(0.1)
EBITDA (Rs/mt)	769	741	3.9	525	46.5

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 - Quarterly performance

(Rs mn)	Q3FY23	Q3FY22	YoY (%)	Q2FY23	QoQ (%)
Net Sales	20,088	15,491	29.7	17,844	12.6
Expenditure					
Change in stock	(654.2)	114.8		(102.5)	538.2
Raw material	3,435	2,461	39.6	2,800	22.7
Purchased products	0	0	0.0	0	0
Power & fuel	7,023	4,151	69.2	6,664	5.4
Freight	3,958	3,342	18.4	3,481	13.7
Employee costs	1,128	1,057	6.8	1,121	0.6
Other Expenses	2,352	2,057	14.3	2,042	15.1
Total Operating Expenses	17,241	13,182	30.8	16,006	7.7
EBITDA	2,846	2,309	23.3	1,838	54.9
EBITDA margin (%)	14.2	14.9	(73bps)	10.3	387bps
Other Income	93	68	37.0	88	5.5
Interest	608	253	140.5	551	10.4
Depreciation	1,359	992	37.0	1,216	11.8
PBT	973	1,132	(14.1)	160	507.2
Non-recurring items	0	0	0.0	0	-
PBT (after non recurring items)	973	1,132	(14.1)	160	507.2
Tax	299	306	(2.5)	46	556.0
Tax Rate (%)	31	27	363	28	228
Reported PAT	674	826	(18.3)	115	487.9
Adjusted PAT	674	826	(18.3)	115	487.9
NPM (%)	4.5	6.6	(205bps)	0.9	358bps
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	2.9	3.5	(18.3)	0.5	487.9

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 3 - New capacities aided volume growth

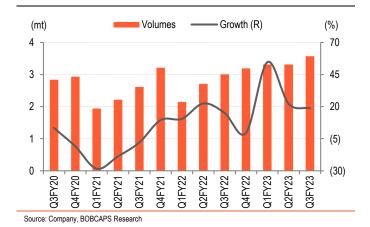
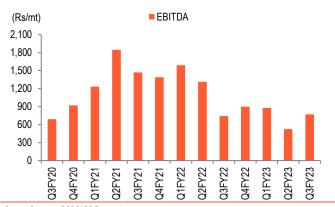


Fig 5 - Steady recovery in EBIDA/mt



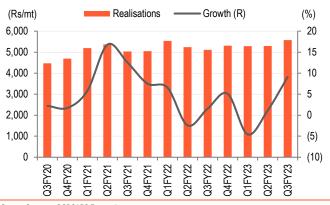
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 - Fuel cost inflation may continue in Q4



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 – Realisation gains backed by healthy demand in key operating regions



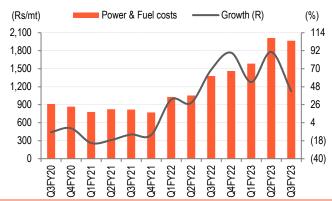
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 - Cost inflation to stay elevated



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – New regions and rail surcharge led to higher logistics cost



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Valuation methodology

To fund its expansion plans, TRCL has piled on debt which we estimate at Rs 43bn as at end-FY23. The stress on the balance sheet is unlikely to recede in FY24/FY25 given the company's heavy debt-backed capex schedule. Enhanced working capital requirements amid fuel cost inflation only add to the pressure. We estimate an uncomfortably high debt/EBITDA ratio of 3.4x/3x in FY24/FY25. In our view, aggressive capex plans with a leveraged balance sheet will prove to be a double-edged sword if the business cycle fails to turn as expected.

Given the positive surprise in Q3FY23, we raise our FY23 EPS estimate by 38% but leave FY24/FY25 forecasts largely unchanged. We model for a revenue/EBITDA CAGR of 16%/9% over FY22-FY25, but a lower 12% PAT CAGR over the same period.

In our view, current valuations at 12x FY25E EV/EBITDA are expensive given the company's high gearing, weak margin profile due to a presence in oversupplied regions, and single-digit return ratios. We thus retain SELL and continue to value the stock at 10x FY25E EV/EBITDA for an unchanged TP of Rs 534. Our target implies a replacement cost of Rs 7.7bn/mt (~US\$ 100/t) – 10% premium to the industry average.

Fig 9 - Revised estimates

(Rs mn)	New			Old			Change (%)		
	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue	74,694	86,276	94,622	74,603	86,243	94,585	0.1	0.0	0.0
EBITDA	10,399	12,711	16,556	9,331	12,678	16,519	11.4	0.3	0.2
Adj PAT	2,907	4,102	6,105	2,106	4,077	6,077	38.0	0.6	0.5
Adj EPS	12.3	17.4	25.8	8.9	17.3	25.7	38.2	0.3	0.5

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 10 - Key assumptions

Parameter	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Volumes (mt)	11.5	14.1	16.2	17.3
Realisations (Rs/mt)	5,137	5,189	5,240	5,398
Operating costs (Rs/mt)	4,084	4,552	4,545	4,525
EBITDA/mt (Rs)	1096	736	785	960

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 – Valuation summary

(Rs mn)	FY25E
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	10
EBITDA	16,556
Target EV	1,72,180
Total EV	1,72,180
Net debt	44,631
Target market capitalisation	1,27,549
Target price (Rs/sh)	534
Weighted average shares (mn)	236

Source: BOBCAPS Research



Fig 12 – Peer comparison

Tieken Detien TP		EV/EBITDA (x)		EV/tonne (US\$)		ROE (%)			ROCE (%)					
Ticker Rating (Rs)	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E		
TRCL IN	SELL	534	22.4	16.5	12.8	120	120	122	3.2	6.0	8.5	4.5	6.6	8.7
DALBHARA IN	HOLD	1,835	17.0	14.1	11.1	129	136	133	4.4	7.0	10.4	5.3	7.6	10.4
JKCE IN	BUY	3,371	15.9	13.1	10.0	198	194	189	17.0	17.8	19.2	16.2	17.0	19.1

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Key risks

Key upside risks to our estimates are:

- Strong cement prices in key southern markets may offset the weak earnings profile in the eastern region, leading to above-estimated earnings.
- Faster-than-expected softening of international coal prices may improve the company's overall performance.

Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
ACC	ACC IN	4.5	1,974	2,090	HOLD
Ambuja Cement	ACEM IN	9.3	385	387	HOLD
Dalmia Bharat	DALBHARA IN	4.5	1,908	1,835	HOLD
JK Cement	JKCE IN	2.6	2,753	3,371	BUY
JK Lakshmi Cement	JKLC IN	1.1	758	551	SELL
Orient Cement	ORCMNT IN	0.3	124	140	HOLD
Shree Cement	SRCM IN	10.6	24,240	24,656	HOLD
Star Cement	STRCEM IN	0.6	114	138	BUY
The Ramco Cements	TRCL IN	2.1	730	534	SELL
Ultratech Cement	UTCEM IN	25.4	7,250	8,310	BUY

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 8 Feb 2023



Financials

Income Statement Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Total revenue	52,451	59,567	74,694	86,276	94,622
EBITDA	15,246	12,606	10,399	12,711	16,556
Depreciation	(3,553)	(4,008)	(4,706)	(5,289)	(6,073)
EBIT	12,273	9,137	6,280	8.037	11,126
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(876)	(1,124)	(2,295)	(2,458)	(2,877)
Other inc./(exp.)	580	540	587	615	644
Exceptional items	0	0	0	0	011
EBT	11,397	8,013	3,985	5,579	8,249
Income taxes	(3,786)	915	(1,078)	(1,477)	(2,144)
Extraordinary items	0,700)	0	0	0	(2,111)
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	0	0	0	0	
Reported net profit	7,611	8,928	2,907	4,102	6,105
Adjustments	0	0,320	0	-,102	0,100
Adjusted net profit	7,611	8,928	2,907	4,102	6,105
Aujusteu net pront	7,011	0,320	2,301	4,102	0,100
Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Accounts payables	3,634	4,892	5,461	6,248	6,630
Other current liabilities	11,227	12,462	13.011	13,011	14,225
Provisions	321	413	380	380	380
Debt funds	31,132	39,300	44,259	45,143	48,303
Other liabilities	10,823	8.240	8,652	9,085	9,539
	236	236	236	236	236
Equity capital					
Reserves & surplus	56,032	64,323	66,394	69,661	74,930
Shareholders' fund	56,268	65,195	66,631	69,897	75,167
Total liab. and equities	113,404 1.419	130,502	138,394	143,765	154,244
Cash and cash eq.	, .	1,760	1,859	2,525	3,672
Accounts receivables	3,752	3,498	4,502	4,964	5,703
Inventories	5,979	8,333	10,232	11,346	12,703
Other current assets	7,181	7,097	8,832	9,171	9,363
Investments	1,956	1,957	1,993	1,984	1,999
Net fixed assets	68,708	76,809	91,756	103,054	110,574
CWIP	23,701	30,340	18,500	10,000	9,500
Intangible assets	708	707	720	721	731
Deferred tax assets, net	0	0	0	0	C
Other assets	0	0	0	0	(
Total assets	113,404	130,501	138,394	143,765	154,244
Cash Flows	5 1/0/14	5 1/00 4	=1/00=	=>/0./=	=1/0==
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Cash flow from operations	13,878	10,127	4,836	9,631	12,615
Capital expenditures	(17,432)	(17,999)	(8,656)	(9,022)	(13,778)
Change in investments	(122)	(1)	(36)	9	(15)
Other investing cash flows	0	0	0	0	(
Cash flow from investing	(17,554)	(18,000)	(8,692)	(9,013)	(13,793)
Equities issued/Others	0	636	(636)	0	(
Debt raised/repaid	4,679	8,168	4,960	884	3,160
Interest expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	(679)	(665)	(369)	(835)	(835
Other financing cash flows	180	76	0	0	C
Cash flow from financing	4,181	8,215	3,955	48	2,324
Chg in cash & cash eq.	505	342	99	666	1,146
Closing cash & cash eq.	1,419	1,760	1,859	2,525	3,672

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Reported EPS	32.3	37.8	12.3	17.4	25.8
Adjusted EPS	32.3	37.8	12.3	17.4	25.8
Dividend per share	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Book value per share	238.7	276.1	282.0	295.8	318.1
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
EV/Sales	3.8	3.5	2.9	2.5	2.3
EV/EBITDA	13.2	16.6	20.6	16.9	13.1
Adjusted P/E	22.6	19.3	59.4	42.1	28.3
P/BV	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.3
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	66.8	111.4	72.9	73.5	74.0
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	92.9	87.7	63.5	69.4	74.1
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	23.4	15.3	8.4	9.3	11.8
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	49.1	48.8	55.6	61.2	63.5
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Adjusted ROAE	14.4	14.7	4.4	6.0	8.4
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	(1.8)	13.6	25.4	15.5	9.7
EBITDA	37.1	(17.3)	(17.5)	22.2	30.2
Adjusted EPS	26.5	17.1	(67.5)	41.1	48.8
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	29.1	21.2	13.9	14.7	17.5
EBIT margin	23.4	15.3	8.4	9.3	11.8
Adjusted profit margin	14.5	15.0	3.9	4.8	6.5
Adjusted ROAE	14.4	14.7	4.4	6.0	8.4
ROCE	13.4	8.7	5.4	6.6	8.7
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	26	21	22	21	22
Inventory	42	51	50	48	49
Payables	36	38	31	31	3′
Ratios (x)					
Gross asset turnover	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
O t t'-	4.0	4.0	4.0		

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets

1.2

14.0

0.6

1.2

8.1

0.6

1.3

2.7

0.7

1.4

3.3

0.6

1.5

3.9

0.6

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio

Adjusted debt/equity



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Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY - Expected return >+15%

HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): THE RAMCO CEMENTS (TRCL IN)



B - Buy, H - Hold, S - Sell, A - Add, R - Reduce

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